



MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MVSKEKE MEDIA

Creek hoopsters take to the court with Tulsa Shock

“Dribble to Stop Diabetes” participants learn tips for healthy lifestyles

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant
OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) teamed up with the Women’s National Basketball Association’s Tulsa Shock at the Panther Dome in Okemah for a “Dribble to Stop Diabetes” Clinic and Traveling Practice, July 26. It is the second for the team and the MCN.

The event aimed to promote the importance of healthy, active lifestyles, as well as diabetes awareness, prevention and management through the campaign, “Dribble to Stop Diabetes.” It gave young basketball players an opportunity to participate in a skills clinic with a professional coach and work with Tulsa Shock players.

WNBA stars such as former OU All-American Courtney Paris, Ivory Latta, Kayla Peterson, Amber Holt and Glory Johnson were among the Tulsa Shock players on hand. The Shock mascot “Volt” gave a slam-dunk show.

Joe Crawford, President of the Shock Basketball Academy, summed up the combination learning and practice drills for the youth, “We’re going to be doing a



Players from the WNBA’s Tulsa Shock hosted a “Dribble to Stop Diabetes” Clinic and Traveling Practice July 26 for Muscogee (Creek) youth at the Panther Dome in Okemah, Okla.

ton of basketball. We’re going to be doing ball handling drills and shooting drills. It’s going to be active and exciting, enthusiastic. They’re also going to talk about some healthy lifestyles. We’re going to really make this a good event for the kids, fitness-wise, health-wise.” The sport of basketball, he said, is effective because it’s so popular with children, “A ton of kids love it. Everywhere we go, we get really good turn-outs.”

Marlene Livaudais, Director of Sponsorship for the Tulsa Shock, explained the goals of the clinic, “It’s really to bring a message to the Creek Nation youth that exercise and healthy eating habits really help to prevent diabetes. Kids love basketball. It’s a proven fact that more kids play team basketball than any other sport.”

Livaudais said that Shock and the Creek Nation have similar goals for

young people, so the partnership works well, “A lot of our initiative align well together. The Tulsa Shock is all about being healthy, teaching fitness and wellness as one of our major initiatives for our teams and that’s one of the major initiatives for the Creek Nation.”

Youth that attended the clinic enjoyed themselves and picked up some pointers.

SEE SHOCK - 11

Mvskoke Film Festival to showcase Native Films

Sterling Cospers
MNN Reporter

JENKS — The first annual Mvskoke Film Festival is calling for entries for the event, which will showcase the talents of Native filmmakers at the three-day festival Sept. 25, 28 and 29.

Entries will be accepted until Sept. 14.

The festival will be held at Riverwalk Movies, 300 Riverwalk Terrace in Jenks, Okla.

“We are excited to bring this event to Tulsa and hope people really enjoy it,” said Gerald Wofford, Mvskoke Film Festival co-coordinator.

The festival will have five categories: Documentary, Feature, Animation, Comedy and

Student Film.

“The student category will be high school and college individually,” Wofford said.

A scholarship is also being created for both student categories, and will be awarded

at an awards banquet the evening of Sept. 25. Winners of the festival

entries will also be recognized at the banquet, which will be a ‘red-carpet’ style event for attendees.

To submit a film, individuals must be one-fourth Native American and a citizen of a federally recognized tribe.

A \$35 entry fee is required per entry for professional films, and a \$10 entry fee is required for students per entry.

Entries must be submitted in Blu-ray disc format.

For more information about the festival and awards banquet, contact co-coordinators Gerald Wofford at 918-732-7635, or Christina Good Voice at 918-732-7630.



MCN Citizens’ Diabetes Awareness summit set for Aug. 28

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

OKEMAH — The sixth annual MCN Citizens’ Diabetes Awareness Summit will be held at the Okemah First Baptist Church, located at 120 South 6th St., in Okemah, Okla., Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2012.

Participants should arrive from 7 - 8:45 a.m., for cholesterol checks (fasting is required) and registration for the event. Choices of exercise available include: walking, Tai Chi, yoga, Zumba or chair exercises which will begin at 7:30 a.m.

The summit program will be held from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Lunch and snacks will be provided and the free event is open to all tribal citizens as well as spouses or support persons and other American Indians living in MCN communities.

SEE SUMMIT - 11



AUG. 1, 2012
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“HIYO RAKKO”
BIG HARVEST MONTH



Morris Indian Community to elect officers Sept. 6

Media Release
Morris Indian Community

MORRIS — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Morris Indian Community will elect officers Sept. 6, 2012 for the following positions: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant at Arms.


Qualifications are as follows for a position on the Board of Directors:

1. Must be a member of the Community; and
2. Must be a full citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, as defined in Article III, § of the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The term of office shall be for a period of two years beginning Oct. 1 and ending Sept. 30.

Letters of intent will be accepted through Aug. 30 and should be mailed to: Morris Indian Community, P.O. Box 22, Morris, OK 74445.

The election will take place Sept. 6, 2012 at Trinity Baptist Church during the regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Lizanne Holata at 918-319-0406 or Billy Jack Wilson at 918-752-7195.



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**MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN
JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION**

Alexander featured on hour-long Mvskoke Radio

National Council Speaker Sam Alexander addressed questions from listeners during the hour-long call-in show July 18.

Story by Sterling Cosper
Interview by Gary Fife
MNN Staff

OKMULGEE — Mvskoke Radio welcomed Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Speaker Sam Alexander July 18 as a guest on its special hour-long call-in show held every third Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m., on KOKL 1240 AM in Okmulgee. The call-in number at KOKL is 918-756-3646.

During this program, Alexander took questions from listeners and hosts Gary Fife and Gerald Wofford on issues affecting the tribe.

Executive Session Requirements:

The government of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is made up of judicial, executive and legislative branches intended to check and balance each another. The National Council, which is the law-making body of this system, conducts meetings, which are to remain

public unless the legislation discussed meets criteria specified in the MCN code of law.

Alexander explained that no legislation could be voted on in executive session and gave several examples of issues that may be discussed in these sessions.

“You don’t want to discuss proprietary issues like business; you don’t want to discuss litigation and personnel issues and you don’t really want to embarrass anyone in an open forum. Other than that, there is really no reason to go into executive session,” Alexander said.

The National Council rules of procedure feature different language than that of the MCN code pertaining to when these meetings can be held (**see sidebar to compare language of each document pertaining to National Council Rules of Proceedure**).

The *Muscogee Nation News* requested clarification regarding this difference in language from the MCN Office of the Attorney

General and was referred to the National Council’s Attorney Zeke Fletcher in Lansing, Mich. The MNN contacted Fletcher via email at approximately 8:30 a.m., July 20 and received no comment as of press time July 25.

Special Appropriations
Fife also inquired about the National Council’s guidelines for approving requests for special appropriations. Alexander explained that a legislative clerk at the council’s office consults a folder containing guidelines for appropriations each time they receive a request for a special appropriation.

Alexander pointed out that these requests could be defeated at several points in the legislative process.

“I was at a meeting the other night when a special appropriation came up but there was no second, so a lot of thought goes into the consideration of these requests,” Alexander said.

Alexander also mentioned a bill introduced several years ago that limited special appropriations (**see text box below and continued on page 3 to view this legislation**).

He explained that most appropriations are requests from people that are unable to get assistance from MCN social programs due to income requirements.

“Some of our people unfortunately will not fit into these guidelines, but still need the help,” Alexander said.

According to Alexander, most people asking for special appropriations see the National Council as a last resort.

“Frankly, most of the people asking for these things are embarrassed that they have to do it,” he said.

He also shared his personal feelings about these appropriations.

“I hope we never become such a big government that we forget about compassion and the need these families have,” Alexander said.

Free Press
A caller during the program asked Alexander about the possibility of an independent newspaper within the MCN.

SEE RADIO - 3

EXECUTIVE SESSION LANGUAGE COMPARRIOSON

NATIONAL COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Section 101. Supremacy of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution and Tribal Ordinances

The 1979 Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and tribal laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation are hereby declared to be supreme to these Rules of Procedures. The National Council shall abide by the Constitution and tribal laws while conducting official business.

Sec. 104. Authority for Rules of Procedures
“The Muscogee (Creek) National Council shall determine the rules of its proceedings”(Article VI, Section 4. (B) of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution).

Section 115 O. Executive Session
Meetings of the National Council may be conducted in executive session. Such a meeting is one in which only members and invited persons are in attendance. An executive session should be held only when the nature of the discussion is determined to be of confidential nature and in the best interest of the Nation. Confidential matters would include, but not be limited to personnel, attorney-client, privileged, and other matters deemed confidential by the majority vote. In executive session neither minutes nor official votes are to be taken. Communications made while in executive session are not to be discussed outside the closed assembly.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CODE ANNOTATED 2012 SECOND EDITION
Title 37, Chapter 5, Section 102 Executive Session
A. If excepted subjects are to be discussed at a meeting or session, the meeting or session must first be convened as a public meeting and the question of holding an executive session to discuss matters that come within the majority vote of the body. No subjects may be considered at the executive session except those mentioned in the main motion calling for the executive session unless auxiliary to the main question. No action may be taken at the executive session.

B. The following excepted subjects may be discussed in an executive session.

- Matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the government unit.
- Subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person provided the person may request a public discussion.
- Matters, which by law, Community Charter, or law are required to be kept confidential.

NATIONAL COUNCIL AMENDMENT 10-032 TO TITLE 35 CHAPTER 9 OF THE MCN CODE ENTITLED SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS

Section 9-103. Special appropriation guidelines

Special appropriations may be made on the basis of need, giving priority to needs for the purpose of preservation or maintenance of home and/or life, when such needs cannot be met by existing programs of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation or its entities.

Individual citizens requesting assistance based on need, must have applied for services through the Social Services Department or appropriate department before asking for a special appropriation, and provide verification of any application for service. All other special appropriations will be considered only on the availability of funds and such requests shall be in compliance with Section B of this Subchapter. Limitation on Award: Any individual or organization may only receive funds under this appropriation once per fiscal year.

A. Appropriations for health and welfare needs will be based on actual financial needs, and will not require participation in the funding of such needs by the individuals for the following:

1. Health - for the purpose of procuring and providing medical treatment, medication, and transportation for medical purposes.

a. Individuals must have requested assistance through the Health Division and/or the Social Services Department and either have received assistance or been denied assistance before requesting an appropriation under this Section.

2. Welfare - for the purpose of assisting citizens for such needs as rent, utilities, emergency repairs.

a. Individuals must have a legitimate need for assistance and must have requested assistance through the Social Services Department or appropriate department and either have received assistance or been denied assistance before requesting an appropriation under this Section. Individuals who have received assistance from the Nation within the past six months will not be considered priority.

B. All other special appropriations will be considered on the availability of funds and in the absence of any reservation of available funds for needs cited in Title 35, § 9-101. An attached budget shall be submitted with each request. Such funding by the Nation will be based on the following:

SEE APPROPRIATIONS - 3

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MNN/Rebecca Landsberry

Muscoogie (Creek) National Council Speaker Sam Alexander answered callers' questions about parliamentary procedure July 18 on the hour-long edition of Mvskoke Radio on KOKL AM 1240 in Okmulgee, Okla.

RADIO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Alexander responded by expressing his doubt that this would ever occur.

“I’m not sure any Indian tribe anywhere will have an independent newspaper as long as they are funded like they are. You could set up the paper to break off and be completely separated from the administration but it would take a significant effort,” Alexander said.

There are, however, two tribally funded independent newspapers in Okla., the *Osage Na-*

tion News and *Cherokee Phoenix*, which are both funded by their respective tribes and have legislation providing free press.

National Council Meeting Sound Issues

Both citizens and Alexander himself have expressed their concern about the ability to hear the National Council representatives during the monthly regular sessions. This problem occurs in both the televised broadcast of the meetings and in the mound building where the meetings occur.

Fife asked Alexander about his feelings on the subject.

“When I sat out there last ses-

sion, I couldn’t hear people sitting across the table,” Alexander said.

Alexander stated that all the representatives will have microphones during the next regular session and that he plans to have a professional evaluation of the building completed between the July and August regular sessions to help improve the broadcast quality of the meetings.

Listen or call in to Mvskoke Radio Wed. Aug. 15 at 9:30 a.m. on KOKL 1240 AM in Okmulgee for the next call-in guest who will be the new MCN Health Director Seneca Smith. The call-in number at KOKL is 918-756-3646.

APPROPRIATIONS (CONTINUED FROM 2)

1. Educational/Curricular - Requests for funding beyond the assistance provided by the Nation will require proof, and will further require self-funding by the” individual / entity equal to no less than 50% of the stated need. School curricular and extra-curricular activities and athletics will be considered under this subsection. Funds received from the Nation through any other grant or assistance program shall not be considered in the self-funding requirement.

2. Churches and Ceremonial Grounds - Requests for funding for Muscoogie (Creek) Traditional Churches and Ceremonial Grounds must apply through the Comprehensive Assistance Grant Program. Churches and Ceremonial Grounds that do not qualify for the Comprehensive Assistance Grant shall not be eligible to receive special appropriations through the National Council unless by waiver of the National Council through section C of this subsection.

3. Sports/Ball teams/Hobbies - Requests for organized sports/ball teams or hobbies that are not part of school curricular or activity may receive funding up to \$500.00 per organization per year. Individual requests will be based on need up to \$250.00 per year. Such funding shall receive the lowest level of priority, and will be funded based upon a first come, first served basis, after the more highly prioritized needs are met.

4. Burial Assistance - Requests for Burial Assistance may only receive funding if the individual does not qualify under Burial Assistance for the tribe. Appropriations will not be made above the full assistance from the tribe and BIA unless there are special circumstances. Such circumstances will be determined by the proper Standing Committee.

5. Communities - Requests for special appropriations from Communities may receive funding with a resolution from the Community Board of Directors or appropriate board or committee established with an approved budget. The budget shall be detailed with specific line items and receipts for expenditures shall be returned to the Controller of the Muscoogie (Creek) Nation.

C. Waiver of this title may only be made by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the full National Council. ·

D. Any special appropriations or prior obligations approved prior to the enactment of this Amendment shall not be subject to these amendments.



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A promotional image for a Polaris giveaway. Two red Polaris ATVs, an RZR 570 and a Ranger 800XP, are parked in front of a large rock wall. The wall has '4X4' and 'LIVE ALWAYS' carved into it. Text overlay reads: 'EARN ENTRIES NOW THRU 8-29-12', 'ENTRIES: EARNED EVERY 250 POINTS', 'DRAWINGS HELD: 8/29/12 · 7PM-11PM', '3 ATV'S: 2) RZR 570'S. 1) RANGER 800XP', 'CASH DRAWINGS UP TO \$400 EVERY HALF HOUR', '\$4,000 CASH DRAWING AT 11PM'.

Creek Council House to feature Jon Mark Tiger Exhibit through Sept.

Media Release
Creek Council House Museum

OKMULGEE — The Creek Council House Museum will feature artist Jon Mark Tiger Exhibit July through Sept., featuring 16 paintings. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Jon Tiger is full-blood Muscogee (Creek). Tiger was born June 17, 1954 and was raised in rural McIntosh County and attended Eufaula Public Schools and Sequoyah Indian High School. Jon graduated in 1973 from Sequoyah Indian High School, Tahlequah, Okla. He belongs to the “Raccoon” Clan and is of the Eufaula Canadian Tribal Town. Jon began drawing at the early age of five years old, on cardboard covered walls of his grandparent’s house. Being mainly self-taught, his maternal grandfather, B.B. Scott, encouraged him to enroll at the Institute of American Indian Arts (I.A.I.A.) in Santa Fe, N.M., in 1971. He continued his studies at the University of Science and Arts in Chickasha, Okla., and Oklahoma State Technical School in Okmulgee, Okla..

As an award-winning artist, Tiger’s work varies in size from miniatures to mural. Tiger’s mediums include pencil, watercolor, acrylic, oils, and wood burning. He was fortunate to have studied under Allen Houser while at I.A.I.A.

Tiger describes his work as “contemporary with a traditional twist,” It was published in the national Native American Child Abuse and Neglect Conference in Tulsa, Okla., and was distrib-



Creek Council House Museum/Archive
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jon M. Tiger will be the Creek Council House Museum’s featured exhibit through Sept.

uted nationwide on posters and brochures in 1999.

He is included in “The Biographical Directory of Native American Painters” authored by Patrick D. Lester in 1995.

He is the son of Harriette Tiger and the late Yahola Tiger, Sr. of Eufaula, Okla. Jon is a board member of the Eufaula Indian Community and is a cousin to the late Jerome Tiger.

Tiger has given several public school presentations and has exhibited in galleries, banks, gift shops, and art shows. He had numerous pieces in permanent, public, and private collections in the U.S., and several countries.

Tiger was selected as the “Featured Artist” for the 2009 Tulsa Indian Art Festival and the Eufaula Art Walk Oct. 24-25, 2008 at the Bank of Eufaula. Eufaula Mayor Smith proclaimed Nov. 1, 2004, as “Jon Tiger Day.”

Nixon made tribes control their own futures

Gilcrease Museum panel explores how the U.S. administration was instrumental in the exercise of tribal sovereignty

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

TULSA — Tribes across the nation have been exercising inherent governmental powers since the 1970s. Nowadays, tribal sovereignty and self-determination are considered a part of everyday business.

But, when did tribes start really using their governmental powers and who helped this government-to-government relationship develop?

He is best remembered for political spying during the Watergate scandals of the early 1970s, but U.S. President Richard M. Nixon and his administration played a key part in bringing about the era of Indian Self-Determination.

That’s according to panelists in a retrospective forum hosted by the Gilcrease Museum. LaDonna Harris (Comanche) was part of a panel presentation this spring at Gilcrease, May 23, 2012. She spoke at a special forum called, “Native American Self-Determination from the Nixon Presidency to the Present Time.” Harris lent her thoughts to the discussions of how Nixon helped bring tribal governments powers to develop their own agendas, instead of having the Bureau of Indian Affairs dictate tribal policies.

Other panelists lending their recollections were Nixon administration members Bobbie Kilberg of the White House Domestic Council staff, and Bradley H. Patterson, Executive Assistant to one of Nixon’s Special Consultants. The Gilcrease Museum, the Nixon Foundation and The National Archives hosted the forum.

Harris was Executive Director of Americans for Indian Opportunity and wife of former Oklahoma U.S. Senator Fred Harris.

In the 70s, Harris remembers that Native leaders had the challenge of teaching the White House staff and other officials what federal Indian law meant and how it should be interpreted, “We always had to teach the decision-makers to interpret what the policy is for them, because they had no background in their educational experience to understand it. So, we called it, the ‘Indian 101’ program for them.” People like Kilberg and Patterson took that message to the President, who lent his support to major policy changes and legislation that underlined the rights that tribes already possessed, but had not used to any great extent.

As for the mood of tribes around the Nation during that period, Harris said, they were depressed about social and economic conditions, but the landmark decision returning the Blue Lake to the Taos Pueblo people set a new beginning for tribal self-determination, “There was a sadness at first, depending on what part of the country you were in. South Dakota was very depressing because of the way Indian people were treated there. Nebraska mis-



MNN/Gary Fife
LaDonna Harris (Comanche) was part of a panel presentation held this spring at Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Okla.

treated their (Indian) folks as well. Gallup, New Mexico. There were three different locations where you didn’t want to be Indian. But, the tribes themselves overcame those relationships. The Winnebagos got rid of the sheriff that was arresting everyone of them by voting him out of office. So, they got themselves organized and it’s changed. It was the encouragement that if the Taos Pueblos got their land back all of us could do better.”

Harris credits part of the emergence of the tribal rights program to the ‘War On Poverty’ programs of U.S. President Lyndon Johnson during the late 1960s. Landmark programs such as the Job Corps and Headstart programs were established then. Indian people all over saw the opportunities, Harris remembers, “People saw that they can make a difference and so they organized themselves. Then the ‘urbans’ started to organize. AIM (American Indian Movement) came out of the urban Indian centers, and the urban Indian centers began to organize without any help from us, practically. You could see the movement. It was growing and people were thinking for themselves. It was a very rewarding time, you felt positive, people felt real positive about things.”

In retrospect, Harris admitted she was a bit surprised that so many positive developments came from President Nixon’s administration, but pointed out that Nixon staffers were willing to listen and act on their beliefs, “Yes, I was. But, getting to know his staff and people and working within the White House structure, they were just people and you can convince them or talk to them in the right way, it worked. It became a very wonderful relationship.”

She remembers that the Indian self-determination legislation came

along, leading to the contracting of services to tribes themselves to perform, replacing paternalistic governmental policies, “Indian housing got organized, the Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT), they organized around assets like energy or housing. Then all tribes could belong and help each other make it happen so that they could change the policies in Washington, they could change the policies back home on their own reservation. So, it really did work.”

Other panelists, such as Sam Deloria, director of the American Indian Graduate Center called the actions of President Nixon, the “gold standard” of support for Indian self-determination, because no one had ever gone so far in proposing sweeping change in federal Indian affairs, adding that he thought no other administration would be surpassed.

In his presidential papers, Nixon delivered a special message. The new direction of Indian policy which aimed at Indian self-determination was set forth in a special message to Congress in July 1970. Nixon condemned forced termination and proposed recommendations for specific action.

Nixon’s message said, in part, “It is long past time that the Indian policies of the federal government began to recognize and build upon the capacities and insights of the Indian people. Both as a matter of justice and as a matter of enlightened social policy, we must begin to act on the basis of what the Indians themselves have long been telling us. The time has come to break decisively with the past and to create the conditions for a new era in which the Indian future is determined by Indian acts and Indian decisions.”

“It is long past time that the Indian policies of the federal government began to recognize and build upon the capacities and insights of the Indian people. Both as a matter of justice and as a matter of enlightened social policy, we must begin to act on the basis of what the Indians themselves have long been telling us.”

— Richard Nixon, U.S. President

Five Tribes Story Conference set for Sept. 21-23

Media Release
Oklahoma Humanities Council

MUSKOGEE — The Five Tribes Story Conference will be held Sept. 21-23 at Bacone College located on Old Bacone Road, in Muskogee.

The event is a multi-disciplinary conference designed to merge practice and theory in interpretation of folklore, oral tradition, scholarship and literature of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole tribes.

It is a gathering of scholars and artists (oral storytellers, musicians,

painters) engaging the public to discuss humanities, the importance of culture, and emphasizing the role of stories, whether oral, painting or song, in every family and cultural history. Robert J. Conley Ph. D, a member of the United Keetoowah Band of the Cherokees, is the featured author.

There is a registration fee to attend the conference. Evening concerts are free and open to the public. For more information call 918-683-1701.



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“Caring when it counts”

Roberts brings new life to culture, sports

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA, Miss. — Daniel “Supaktv” Roberts started playing stickball in March 2011. Since that time, Roberts has turned it into a game he absolutely loves.

Native American tribes used stickball as a way to settle inter-tribal disputes without going resorting to war. This is how the sport received its name, “Little Brother of War.”

There are different styles of stickball play, according to tribe, including the “Choctaw” and “Mvskoke” or “East and West.”

“Choctaw style is played when you go to the different tournaments throughout the season,” Roberts said. “With Choctaw style, you can not hit with sticks, you can only use your body. With Mvskoke style, you can only hit with the sticks, and there are no body hits. Both are violent. With Choctaw style, you can get more broken bones, with Mvskoke style, you get more cuts that will open up. Mvskoke style is more for ceremonial grounds and Choctaw is tournament. With both there are a lot of injuries.”

Both teams have 30 people on the field at all times,” Roberts said. “They consist of shooters, centers, defenders. Centers will control the middle of the field and their job is to get the ball to the shooters. The defenders’ job is to protect the goal and to help centers move ball down the field to shooters. The shooters job is to score and get the points. The shooters are the ones that the opponents are trying to hit and try-



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Daniel “Supaktv” Roberts and his inter-tribal team recently competed in the “World Series of Stickball” held in Philadelphia, Miss.

ing to stop.” Roberts is a shooter on his team. “As a shooter, you are going to get hit,” Roberts said. “And you are going to get hit hard, but it is our job to stay focused and score the points for our team.”

Roberts plays for a team called “6town,” which he considers an inter-tribal team.

“My team is a lot like me; we are a very young team,” Roberts said. “I have been playing for a little bit over a year. My cousin Jake Roberts was the one who got me involved with 6town. We have more than one tribe that represents our team. Our team has members of Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Cherokee.”

Roberts and his team recently returned from the “World Series of Stickball” held annually in Philadelphia, Miss.

“Stickball in Mississippi is a lot like football here on Friday nights,”

Roberts said. “If you are a stickball player there, you are the top dog. There is no other feeling like it. Walking out into the field and hearing everybody either cheering or booing you and your team, it is crazy. It is an unreal feeling. When you hit that field you are walking into the biggest game in the world,” Roberts said.

Although the series didn’t turn out the way 6town wanted, they know what the competition is like and will be ready next year.

“We have a few tournaments that are coming up, around here in Oklahoma,” Roberts said. Until then, we will practice and continue getting better. We will be ready and prepared for next year.”

Roberts is Creek, Choctaw and Aleut. His parents are Danny and Janelle Roberts. His Tribal Town is Nuyaka and his Clan is Hotvle (Wind).

CMN receives Tobacco Free Work Site of the Month

Media Release
College of the Muscogee Nation

OKMULGEE — The Substance Abuse Prevention/Treatment Committee through the Okmulgee County Wellness Coalition is working to recognize Okmulgee County work sites who have adopted a tobacco free work site policy for their organization. Each business that has adopted a tobacco free work site policy and strives to promote health and wellness initiatives for their employees will have the opportunity to be selected to receive special recognition from the committee. The purpose of this award is to highlight proactive businesses in Okmulgee County each month that have adopted a tobacco free work site policy for their business, as well as have shown other ways of aiming to improve the health and well-being of their employees. Businesses that are selected will be given an outdoor sign to display in front of their business for the month they are awarded.

The College of the Muscogee Nation is the institution of higher education for the Muscogee Creek Nation emphasizing native culture, values, language and self-determination. The College provides a positive learning environment for tribal and non-tribal students as citizens of a tribal and global society supported by teaching excellence and will offer exemplary academic programs that meet student, tribal, and societal needs. Through instructional quality and visionary leadership, the College of the Muscogee Nation will encourage lifelong learners, for personal growth, professional development, and intellectual advancement.

Tobacco use is prohibited on areas of CMN property, including but not limited to: parking lots, common areas, buildings, and personal vehicles when on College property. The following fines will be assessed for any violations of the CMN tobacco policy.

- Further, the CMN tobacco policy also includes chewing and dipping tobacco products as well as e-cigarettes.
- Spit containers are prohibited in all campus buildings.
- Please note that Student-

Residents who throw cigarette butts on the ground or spit chew in public spaces will face disciplinary action for littering.

- Any Student-Resident in violation of the tobacco policy will be subject to the following sanctions:

FIRST OFFENSE: \$50 fine and three hours of community service.

SECOND OFFENSE: \$100 fine and a three page written paper or appropriate anti-tobacco poster on the effects of smoking.

THIRD OFFENSE: Removal from housing.

The College of the Muscogee Nation has been chosen as the Tobacco Free

Work site of the Month recipient for July. The goal is to ensure that all staff and visitors to the college campus are aware of and adhere to the tobacco free policy.

Effective April 6, 2011, the College of the Muscogee Nation became a tobacco-free work site.

The College of the Muscogee Nation provides a great opportunity for Native American, and non-Native American, students to further their education in Police Science, Native American Studies, Gaming, and Tribal Services with hopes of adding more degree programs in the future.

They currently have plans to build a Student Center that will provide students with more on campus options that will include a library, fitness center, grill, and more classrooms.

The Substance Abuse Prevention/Treatment Committee would like to thank the College of the Muscogee Nation for their dedication to improve the health and well-being of their employees, students, and patrons!

Becoming a tobacco free work site is a simple and easy way to make strides towards increasing employee productivity and lowering insurance costs.

If your business already has a tobacco free work site policy and would like to be considered for this award, or you are interested in adopting a tobacco free work site policy, please contact Kristin Story, Tobacco Prevention Specialist, at 918-756-1248.



Gourd on fire after track season

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Writer

SALLISAW — Andi Gourd is coming off a strong year in cross-country and track at Central High School in Sallisaw, Okla., where she is the only person, at her school to place in a state-level competition in these sports.

The junior came in second place in cross-country this season and took first in the one-mile and two-mile competitions for her track team this season as well. She’s also the only member on the cross-country team and the only female in track.

Cross-country courses are open-air courses covering natural terrain. There are hills, rocks, trees and, if it rains, mud. If that is not tough, then try to run the rough course for two miles.

“With cross-country, I will compete against all the other schools regardless of class,” Gourd said. “Whatever schools show up that day, whether they are 6-A or class B, I will race against them. I do not race against teams in my class until regionals and state.”

Gourd has been state runner-up in cross-country the past two years, so she had one thing on her mind last season in this event.

“I plan on winning this year,” Gourd said. “I have been state runner-up and I do not want that anymore. I know what I have to do to win this time. I know what it takes.”

She also had a successful track season.

“I’m so happy about this season in track,” Gourd said. “In my previous years I did not do too well. It seems to me that track is a lot more competitive. In this season, I was more confident, and added more muscle tone to my body, which



Photo submitted/Tammy Barbee
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Andi Gourd (pictured in the middle) took first in the one-mile and two-mile competitions for her track team this season.

helped out.” These events do take a toll on the physical and mental strength of runners.

“I always walk the course for cross-country before every race,” Gourd said. “It helps me to know where there could be hazards that can hurt me, or if I can find a place to where I can overtake my opponent. This is where I map out my strategy.”

“For track it is a little bit different. What I like to do is run behind a person majority of the race and then overtake them close to the end. It really bugs them because they are worried about me beating them and are not focusing on the race at all.”

Her mother Tammy Barbee knows what a competitor her daughter is and is excited for her in her senior year.

“Andi has always loved to run,” Barbee said. “It was getting her to stop that was the problem. She is ready for her senior year and with the goals that she has set for herself, she will use this strength to get her

ready for the next level.”

Her coach, Scott Lowe, had some positive things to say about Gourd on this year’s success.

“I am very pleased and very happy with Andi on what she did over all this year,” Lowe said. “She is a training beast. She never complains about anything and is more professional about things now. She now understands the science of running and what that takes. She watches what she eats and how certain foods can affect her body. Not a lot of runners will do that, especially the ones in high school. But she wants to run at the next level and knows what it takes to do that.”

Gourd would like to attend the University of Arkansas when she goes to college. She would like to become a teacher or major in journalism. She has always loved the track team for the college and hopes to continue her education as well as her running as a Razorback.

Gourd, Creek-Cherokee, is the daughter of Tammy Barbee and Brian Gourd.



OSUIT/Submission
The College of the Muscogee Nation was recently named The Tobacco Free Work site of the month by the Okmulgee Count Wellness Coalition Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment Committee.

Change a life.
Become a Foster/Adoptive Parent



Children. Keepers of our tradition.



NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting our children • Preserving our culture

Preserve our heritage, become a foster/adoption parent today.
In the State of Oklahoma, there are Muscogee Creek Children in
state and tribal custody looking for a place to call "cuko" (home).
Become a Foster/Adoptive tribal home.

For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918)732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Guardianship
of the Person and Estate of:
D.L.C.

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Case No. GD-2012-09

Minor Child.

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Kenneth Maurice Mathews

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. GD-2012-09, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of D.L.C., Minor Child, *Petition for Appointment of Guardian of Minor Child*. The action alleges that the Petitioners are entitled to an order appointing guardianship of the minor child.

You are notified that you must appear at the hearing on the 14th day of August, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. Failure to attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioners.

Given under my hand and seal this 19 day of July, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
By: Shannon McLenathan
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

Approved:
Kurt K. Townsend, MCN#642
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Gregory N. Hope, MCN#641
MCN Citizen Legal Services
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112
(918) 756-1113 facsimile
Attorneys for Petitioners

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Guardianship
of the Persons and Estate of :
M.P., R.G. and A.A.H.,

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Case No. GD-2012-11
Judge Gregory Bigler

Minor Children.

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Armondo Alexander Herrera, Sr., and Abel Garcia

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Children in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD 2012-11, styled In the Guardianship of M.P, R.G. and A.A.H., minor children. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to guardianship over the minor children based on abandonment.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner and appear at the hearing scheduled for the 23rd day of August, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Mound Building, Hwy 75 and 56 Loop, Okmulgee, OK or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 19 day of July, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,
Okmulgee District
By: Jobue King
(Deputy)

Approved:
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Kurt K. Townsend, MCN#642
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Gregory N. Hope, MCN#641
MCN Citizen Legal Services
114 North Grand, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112
(918) 756-1113 facsimile
Attorneys for the Petitioner

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the Name Change of

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)

Case Number: CV-2012-99

B. L. H.
and
K. C. H.

NOTICE OF FILING PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TO: Whom it may concern

The Petitioners, Matthew Ellis and Valerie Richelle Hotop, have filed a *Petition for Change of Name* in the above Court to have their minor children's last name changed to reflect the father's name, the same will be heard in the courtroom before the Honorable Judge in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District Courthouse, in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 23 day of August, 2012 at 1 o'clock P.m, or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard. Any person may file a written protest in this case prior to the date set for the hearing.

Given under my hand a seal this 29 day of June, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
By: Shannon McLenathan
Deputy Court Clerk

APPROVED FOR ISSUANCE:
Courtney L. Eagan-Smith, MCN#543
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Kurt K. Townsend, MCN#642
Gregory N. Hope, MCN#641
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Legal Services
114 N. Grand, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112 Telephone
(918) 756-1113 Facsimile
Attorneys for Petitioners

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF:

T.B., DOB: 07-23-97
B.B., DOB: 09-19-05

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Case No. JV-2011-03

Alleged Deprived Children.

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Reginald Benson, Natural Father of T.B.

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 9th day of October 2012 at 1 :00 P.M.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of HARPER,
SAMUEL EDWARD HARPER,
Petitioner,
vs.
DEANNA LYNN HARPER,
Respondent.

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Case No. DV 2012-42

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Deanna Lynn Harper

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for paternity in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-42, styled In re the Marriage of Harper, Samuel Edward Harper, Petitioner and Deanna Lynn Harper, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Petition for Dissolution of Marriage* from you.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 23rd day of August 2012. at 1:00 o'clock p.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 5th day of July, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District
By: Shannon McLenathan
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

NATIONAL

SUICIDE

PREVENTION

LIFELINE

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

suicidepreventionlifeline.org

COMMUNITY CALENDAR AUGUST 2012

MCN REINTEGRATION PROGRAM SEEKS FEED-BACK ON "PROJECT TO OVERCOME"

HENRYETTA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program works with incarcerated offenders and those recently released from prison to provide an easier and more productive reentry into the community.

The program is seeking input from the citizens in the communities to determine if safer and healthier environments can be accomplished. The following are the dates and times program representatives will be in local communities

- Aug. 7 at 7 p.m., Oklahoma City Indian Community
- Aug. 13 at 7 p.m., Okmulgee Indian Community
 - Duck Creek, Twin Hills, Wilson, Dewar and Morris
- Aug. 14 at 7:45 p.m., Glenpool Indian Community
 - Koweta, Tulsa, Sapulpa, Kel-

lyville and Bristow

For more information, contact MCN Reintegration Program Project Coordinator Amber Nelson at 918-652-2676, ext. 110.



MCN HEAD START CENTERS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start centers in Ryal and Wainwright are now accepting applications for the 2012-2013 school year. Ryal Public Schools will be providing iPads for the students and both schools will have an after school program.

Requirements for all programs include: parents income verification, (last year's income tax, pay stubs, W-2 form, TANF letter, SSI Letter, or statement from employer), child's immunization record, child's medical card, child's CDIB (if applicable) child's birth certificate, child's social security card. For more information, contact the MCN Head Start office at 918-758-7898 or 918-732-7899.

OIC TO HOLD CANDIDATE FORUM AUG. 13

OKMULGEE — The Okmulgee Indian Community will host a candidate forum Monday, Aug. 13 during the general meeting.

The election of the Board of Directors is set for Saturday, Sept. 1.

A special meeting will be held the first week in September to elect the Board of Directors.

BERRYHILL AND RANDALL FAMILY REUNION SET FOR AUG. 25

HENRYETTA — The Berryhill and Randall Family Reunion is set for Saturday, Aug. 25 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the Wilson Indian Community Center in Henryetta.

For more information, please call 918-355-1442 or 918-304-4002.

MONTESOMA BAPTIST 125TH ANNIVERSARY SET FOR SEPT. 22

OKEMAH — Montesoma Indian Baptist Church will host its 125th Anniversary Celebration, Sept. 22-23 beginning at 5 p.m.,

Saturday. Festivities will continue with a special service later that evening at 7 p.m., and Sunday at 6 a.m., and a speaker at 11 a.m.

All are welcome to attend. For more information call 918-623-1811 or 918-623-9522.

TIGER MOUNTAIN CAMPGROUND REVIVAL SET FOR AUG. 20-25

HENRYETTA — Tiger Mountain Camp Grounds is hosting an all believers revival" entitled "Fire in the Camp."

The event will feature a variety of musical guests and speakers and will run from Aug. 20-25. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

RV hookups and lodging will be available. For more information call Norman Daniel at 918-441-8779, Robert Lay Jr. at 918-652-5340 or Fred Lowe at 918-843-2255.

MARSHALL FAMILY REUNION SET FOR SEPT. 3

WETUMKA — The Lewis and Mandy Marshall Family Reunion will be held Monday, Sept. 3, at the

Wetumka Indian Baptist Church in Wetumka from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

A pot-luck meal will be served and attendees are encouraged to contribute. There will be door prizes for adults and prizes for childrens' games.

For more information, contact Pauline Levi at 405-737-0174 or Rosalee Marshall at 405-683-2101.

GLENPOOL INDIAN COMMUNITY BAZAAR SET FOR SEPT. 8

GLENPOOL — The Glenpool Indian Community will host a fund-raising bazaar Sept. 8 at the GIC Community Building from 7 a.m. - noon and from 7-9 p.m.

The event is open to the public and will feature items for barter, sale or trade including flea market, garden and Native American arts and crafts.

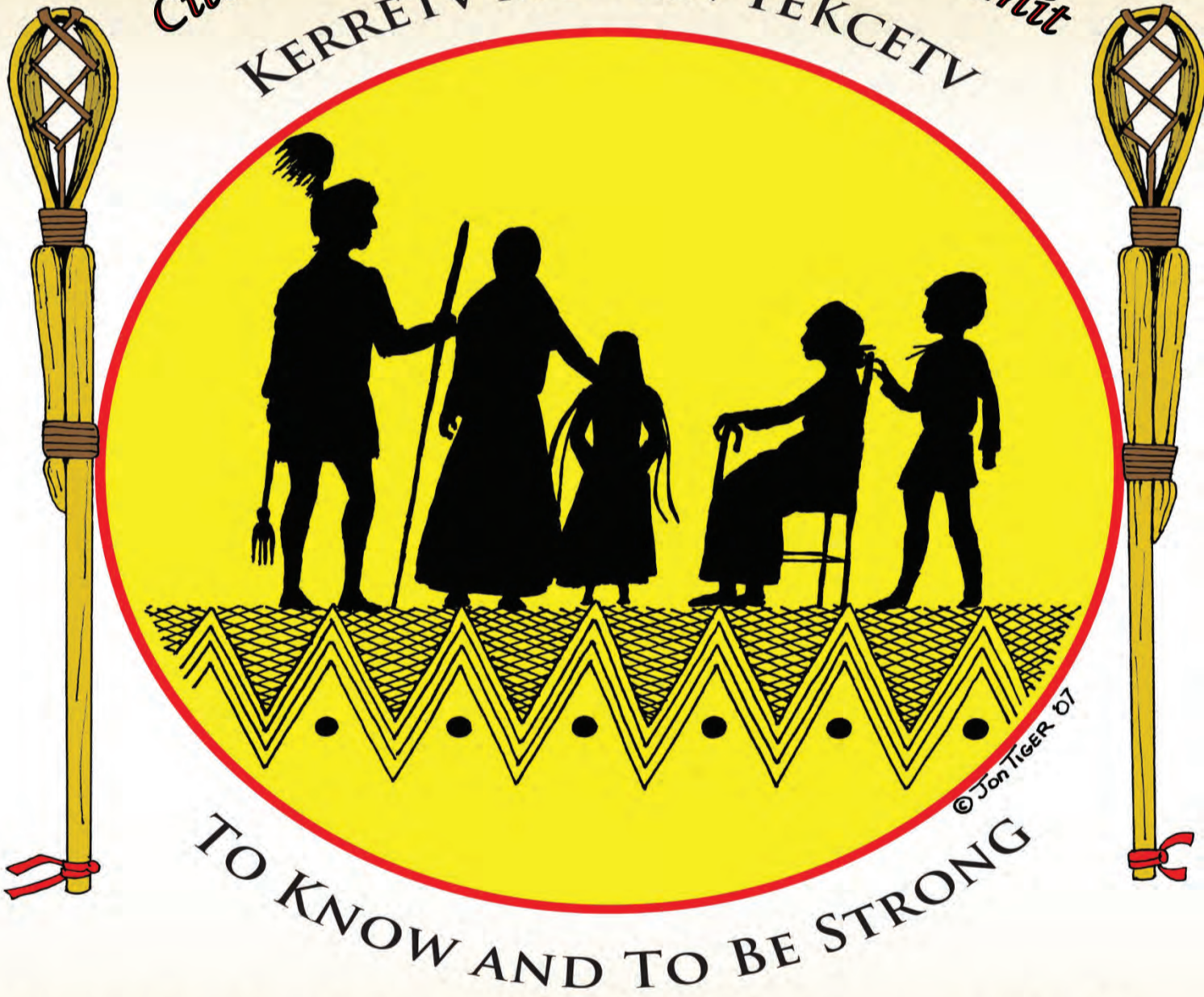
Limited booth space is available and is first come, first served.

For more information, contact GIC Treasurer Eleanor Irene Van-Buskirk at 918-946-0077.

Save the Date

Sixth Annual

Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Citizens' Diabetes Awareness Summit
KERRETV MOMEN YEK CETV



Although this event is primarily for MCN citizens, their spouses or significant support persons and other American Indians living in MCN communities are also welcome. For information contact: Irene Culley (918) 636-8735 or Duane Meadows (918) 695-1325

August 28, 2012

Okemah First Baptist Church

120 S. 6th

Okemah, Ok 74859

Summit is Free



EMVPONAYV

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — A Kiowa friend of mine has weighed in on the case of the Massachusetts woman who claimed 1/32nd Cherokee on her Harvard University paperwork. Elizabeth Warren, a Congressional candidate, listed herself as ‘Native American,’ but never attended any Native functions at the university, nor in the Boston community. Several organizations have been coming up with documents that may suggest that Warren is faking any allegiance to Native culture and connection. A group of Cherokee women travelled to Massachusetts to get the story straight from the horse’s mouth, (or the other end of the horse, perhaps). Nothin’ doin’ from Warren.

Margo (KickingBird) DeLaune, a Harvard grad, wrote a letter against the false claim of Warren’s Cherokee ancestry. DeLaune’s academic prose and arguments made me envious of her ability to put words on paper. Her writing against Warren produced this phrase, “... directly facilitates a corruption of equal opportunity philosophy and then disingenuously dismisses valid concerns about her behavior as attacks against her family, she demeans the bravery of our Native forebears who fought so valiantly to resist assimilation and to preserve our various ways of life...”

Wow! I wish could write like that!

DeLaune challenges the democrats up there to take a stand against falsehoods like this.

Me, too. After all, Warren would be 31/32nd something else, right?

Federal Emergency Management officials discussed support for legislative change to allow tribal governments to directly apply for Federal Disaster Aid. If passed, that means tribal governments would be able to go directly to the president or FEMA, instead of asking state governments for permission, or to be included in a state disaster aid plan. Currently, only states and their governors can make such requests.

If passed, an amendment to the Stafford Act would acknowledge the right of federally recognized tribes to ask for direct assistance in a major disaster scenario, enhance FEMA’s working relationship with tribal governments and improve emergency and disaster responsiveness throughout Indian Country.

It’s off again. No Indian museum in Oklahoma City.

The Senate killed the \$40

million bond issue to complete the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum by a SINGLE VOTE. The bond issue needed 25 votes to pass. Senators whooped and hollered as the vote tally froze at 24-22. Who are the wild savages now?

Construction on the half-built American Indian Cultural Center will be suspended at July’s end, as state funding for the project dries up.

Matching funds that were promised would never be available without state support. The project had three previous state bond issues totaling \$63 million, as well as \$14.5 million in federal funding and \$4.9 million and 250 acres of land from Oklahoma City. The museum is left half-built.

Opponents of the measure argued that the project has been ill-managed. An audit was supposed to find out where the state money went but no report has yet to surface. The Museum is a wonderful idea, but I’d kind of like to find out where all those bucks went, too.

Plans are to spend \$52,000 month to protect the site. For that kind of cash, it makes me think I could be in the wrong business. But, I did take my journalists vow of poverty.

Have you recovered from the 2012 Creek Festival? Thousands of Creeks and our neighbors attended the event and had a wonderful time. There was a little something for everybody looking for fun, food, sports, arts and crafts, rodeo and entertainment. My favorite was The Temptations! I must admit I was around when most of their songs were new. Hearing these guys perform their music was a real treat. “I guess you say...what can make me feel that way—My Girl!” — The Temptations ‘national anthem’ they called it.

One of the highlights was the arrival of the Okmulgee to Okmulgee Bike Tour. Way to go, guys! Andrew Lowe is to be applauded. Word has it that he had medical problems that stopped him before he got to the Festival, but he would not let that keep him from completing that journey. There’s a role model for you.

I saw that the food stands all had long lines waiting for tacos, salt meat and frybread. I was hoping that one of them served the famous ten foot taco, but no luck.

Well, as the hottest part of summer prepares to hit us, remember what Will Rogers said:

“Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.”

And Still the Waters Run: The storytellers

George Windes
CMCA Historian

YORBA LINDA, Calif., — Her eyes would twinkle and her voice was expressive, with well-timed pauses and whispers and fast paced excitement. My maternal grandmother would weave stories for us grandkids, mostly on the spur of the moment, in answer to questions about “what she remembered and who our ancestors were.” I don’t think she knew that she was, in fact, a “storyteller,” but what she was doing was creating memories with a beautiful panorama of gentle Muscogee (Creeks) and Indian Territory outlaws. The kids listened when grandma talked, though sleep sometimes interrupted, since she would talk all-night if she hadn’t seen them for a while. She had a remarkable recollection of family events, names and places and wasn’t hesitant to share.

My paternal grandfather was a storyteller too, but his stories were different. He was more monotone in delivery. His stories were much shorter, presented mainly as he sat in an old rocker or leaned a chair against a wall of the screened front porch of the tiny frame house they rented for 40 years in the intense heat of Taft, a rough, tough oil boom town 38 miles west of Bakersfield, Calif.

“Dad” didn’t have granny’s knack for drama, so his stories were more about the jobs he had held to support his large family, of hard times and good times, with a dose of politics and wars mixed in. He read the Los Angeles Times religiously. It was “number one” in his mind. Occasionally, he pointed to relics in the old house from his past. His pipe was never far, his treasured pocketknife always whittling something out of wood.

Have I conjured up memories of your grandparents? Well, grandpa was Muscogee Creek (an original enrollee, as were his mother and eight siblings). Granny however, was part Cherokee (through two of her four grandparents). It is important to know though, from the age of eight she was raised by a beloved Creek stepmother, after the death of her own mother from German Measles. In fact, she married an older brother of her stepmother (ages 32 and 17 respectfully). Granny’s half-siblings were grandpa’s nephews and nieces. The old fashioned photograph with this column is believed to document their marriage in 1907. They married in a small ceremony in her father’s parlor, near Checotah, Okla.

Tragedies struck the young married couple early on. First, the sudden death of their firstborn son, one-year-old Alexander, then the shooting of granny’s dad, Sam Baker, on the main street of Checotah in 1911. Sam was probably Checotah’s most famed resident (until country music singer, Car-



Photos courtesy/George Windes

Roy and Dona Freeman were married in Checotah in 1907. He was Muscogee (Creek) and she was part Cherokee. Pictured below is an old cigar band from Roy’s favorite brand.

rie Underwood, in recent years).

The economy was terrible in those years and the family left seeking a new life in California in 1914 (they missed Checotah something fierce, and returned home until 1927). Heading back to Kern County, Calif., they stayed then, but granny always had to visit her kin every year, to see all the Bakers, Freemans, friends and to place flowers on 21 family graves at the old Indian Territory cemetery at Checotah.

There are a great many stories I’d love to tell about my special grandparents. I could go on about granny for a month of Sundays (perchance I inherited her story-telling abilities). I will share just one. Granny told my brother that Merle Haggard (country music legend) was born in Checotah. Later my brother learned Merle was born in a converted railroad car near Bakersfield, Calif.

He asked granny about it. She looked at him and said, “Well, he may have been born in Bakersfield, but but he was started in Checotah.”

Here are a few “punch lines.” See if you can conjure up the missing stories:

“Lady, we are not a taxi, we are the city police. We can’t take your money.”

“Dona, that little hotel is not a very nice place. You know Roy, I thought those young ladies must be wealthy, lying around all morning.”

Note found on the table, “Roy, the _____ family stopped by on their way out to Oklahoma and had an extra seat, so I just grabbed

the suitcase I always keep packed. There are lots of canned goods in the pantry. I will see you in a couple of weeks. Love, Dona.”

“I came to visit my husband Roy Freeman who is lumbering in these parts, but he apparently didn’t get my postcard. I’m here at the train station with three little girls and 25 cents in my purse and don’t know a soul in Fort Smith. Are you related to the _____ family of Checotah?” (They stayed three full days with strangers till grandpa came and found them).

To a suitor who asked Roy for his daughter’s hand, “Don’t ask me, ask Dona.”

I am flooded with memories in remembering Roy and Dona Baker Freeman. The storytelling they shared and their own lives have become stories as well, with smiles and laughs and a tear or two. How I would love to hear, “WOO’EEEE” from granny again (or sit down to her sliced fried potatoes and onions cooked in lard). I attended the 50th wedding anniversary for a paternal relative in Taft years ago. A lady asked to speak with me. She said, “I’ve been told the Freemans were your grandparents. They were the finest old people I ever knew. We lived in a little house on their alley. I grew up in their kitchen, always full of good food, conversation and minor medical attention. They were everyone’s grandparents!”


A couple of years ago I got certified by the United Methodist Church locally in Native storytelling. I love sharing stories about coyote, turtle, owl, spider woman, etc., with school kids. But mostly I love sharing stories about my own genetic DNA, the Muscogee (Creeks) of Checotah/California. I titled this column “Storytelling” but find it mostly mentions grandparents. Isn’t that appropriate? Mvto.

Windes has been an active member of the California Muscogee Creek Association for over a decade and is serving on the Board as historian. He may be reached at: georgewindes@gmail.com



From Georgia Tragedy to Oklahoma Frontier
A Biography of Scots Creek Indian Chief Chilly McIntosh
by Muscogee (Creek) author Billie Jane McIntosh

- Chilly McIntosh Family
- Photos, maps and documents
- Muscogee Creek tribal history 1800-1875
 - Alabama
 - Georgia
 - Indian Territory



“Best overview and description of the murder of William McIntosh, Jr.”
-Dr. Gary L. McIntosh, Calif.

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Ocmulgee Tour explores Creek history of Horseshoe Bend



MNN/Sterling Cosper
The Battle of Horseshoe Bend is documented through photos by *Muscogee Nation News* Reporter Sterling Cosper as part of the history series from Mvskoke Media via the ‘Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Bike Tour.’

Sterling Cosper with contribution from John Beaver
MNN Reporter / MCN Museum Director

DAVISTON, Ala. — 1) The Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Trail of Tears Bicycle Tour began in Macon, Ga., and



wound its way through Georgia and Alabama, the Muscogee (Creek) homelands. One of the last stops the tour made during the journey west out of Alabama was at Horseshoe Bend National Park June 11.

Park Ranger Ove Jensen (left) and Park Superintendent Doyle Sapp (right), gave an oral account of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend to participants of the Ocmulgee Tour. This was the deciding battle of the Creek (Red Stick) War (1813–1814).

2) The Battle of Horseshoe Bend took place March 27,



1814 at a horseshoe-shaped bend in the Tallapoosa River in central Alabama. During the battle, the Creek Red Sticks, led in-part by Chief Menawa, had approximately 1,000 warriors compared to U.S. Gen. Andrew Jackson’s force of 3,300 soldiers and militia members. It’s estimated that only one in three Red Stick Warriors had muskets.

3) The Red Sticks set up a wall, close to where these white posts (pictured) are today, to block off the only land access to their stronghold. The Red Sticks were guarded on all other sides by the bend in the Tallapoosa River. Jackson and his army were forced to charge this wall after attempting to destroy it for two hours with cannon fire.

4) Jackson’s forces consisted of the Thirty-Ninth U.S. Infantry, members of the East and West Tennessee Militia and allied Cherokee and Lower Creek warriors. While Jackson



commanded the troops to set up at the neck of the bend where the Red Stick’s wall was located, he ordered Gen. John Coffee to take a group of mounted riflemen and the allied Cherokee and Lower Creek warriors to surround and guard the other side of the river near the toe of the bend.

5) The temporary town of Tohopeka (set up within the trees pictured here in the background) was strategically set up inside the bend of the Tallapoosa River at the toe. This was the home base of the allied Red Stick Warriors from the Upper Creek towns. The women and children stayed here during the battle with the hope that they would be guarded from the main assault.

6) Eventually, many of the remaining foot soldiers in Coffee’s outfit would follow the Cherokee and cross the river. Jackson real-



ized that his forces were successful in crossing the river after hearing the gunshots fired by the foot soldiers attacking Tohopeka and decided to storm the wall.

7) The main Red Stick forces were eventually overcome at the wall and fell back near Tohopeka where they were defeated by



the attack on all sides. Coffee’s mounted riflemen, who were waiting for the attempted escapees on the other side, gunned down many Red Sticks trying to escape across the river. The allied Cherokee and Lower Creek took many women and children captive from Tohopeka. Menawa was shot seven times but managed to escape and remained a prominent leader in Creek society.

8) Chief Red Eagle (William Weatherford), who was not present during this battle, surrendered to Jackson at Fort Jackson established at the former location of Fort Toulouse near Wetumpka, Ala. Jackson forced leaders from his allies from the Lower Creek towns and his enemies from the Upper Creek towns to sign the Treaty of Fort Jackson Aug. 9, 1814, resulting in a land cession of 23 million acres in central Alabama and southern Georgia.

9) Menawa would later lead a party to execute Chief William McIntosh of the Lower Creeks for signing a treaty, which sold all remaining land in Georgia to the United States, per a National Council resolution. McIntosh also led Jackson’s Indian troops during the Battle of Horseshoe Bend.

10) Menawa was granted exclusion from the relocation but was later ordered by a local judge to join his people in the new Indian Territory.

Before beginning his journey west he made this statement:

“Last evening I saw the sun set for the last time and its light shine on the treetops and the land and the water, that I am never to look upon again.”

Menawa died in an unknown location during his forced journey to new Indian Territory.



SHOCK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Breanna Wood from Shawnee, liked the chance to meet star players, “My mom told me about it. Courtney Paris is what attracted me the most, so we decided to come out here.” Wood plays for Shawnee High School.

Marie Harjo plays for Holdenville and aims to be a better ball handler, too, she said. At the clinic she learned “How

to dribble the right way and all that.” She admitted that she would like to play for the Tulsa Shock someday.

Crawford put the participants through several drills including ball handling skills, reaction times, free throw shooting and fitness exercises.

Following the clinic, spectators watched the Tulsa Shock in a full-speed traveling practice and had an autograph signing/photograph session with the players.



MNN/Gary Fife

Tulsa Shock's "Volt" poses with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger (middle) and Public Relations Representative Edwin Marshall at the "Dribble to Stop Diabetes."

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SUMMIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Nationally recognized speakers include Dr. Darryl Tonemah, a member of the Kiowa/Comanche/Tuscarora tribes, has worked in the field of health and wellness for over 20 years. He has given workshops and keynotes across the United States, Canada and Mexico. He has recently been named to the Board of Directors for the American Diabetes Association. He is a partner in the Native Health Group


(NHG) with primary goal of decreasing health disparities among the Native American population and increase access to care.

Lisa Pivec is the director of Community Health Promotion for Cherokee Nation Health Services. She holds a master's degree from NSU in college teaching with an emphasis in health and has been with the Cherokee Nation since 1991. She currently is the principal investigator for several funding agreements with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

She directs the Healthy Nation program, including the Male Sem-

inary Recreation Center and serves as lead staff on the recently funded National Public Health Improvement Initiative from Centers for Disease Control. Lisa is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and is originally from the Peavine community in Adair County. She hopes to continue working with and for Cherokee people throughout her career.

For more information, please contact Duane Meadows, at (918) 695-1325 or Irene Culley at (918) 636-8735.





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